(e) No, Sir. However, eco-friendly materials are encouraged for use.

[Translation]

Fertilizer Plants in Foreign Countries

550. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the total expenditure incurred so far for the setting up of fertilizer plants in foreign countries during the last three years;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the name of the plants where the work has already commenced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) During the last three years, some of the public and cooperative fertilizer undertakings under the administrative control of Department of Fertilizers have considered various project ideas for establishment of joint ventures abroad. Of these, the joint venture nitrogenous fertilizer project promoted by Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. and Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited in Oman in association with Oman Oil Company has made significant progress. The two undertakings have incurred an expenditure of Rs. 9.21 crore till 31.12.1996 in connection with the preparation of a Detailed Feasibility Report and finalisation of various project agreements. The Committed expenditure on this account is Rs. 12.6 crore.

(c) None of these projects has reached the stage of implementation.

[English]

FCI Officers

551. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether some officers of the Food Corporation of India have been booked under the Anti-Corruption Act;

(b) if so, the details of each case; and

(c) the action taken against them so far ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFARIS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) On the basis of investigation done by the District Police Authorities, Rohtak (Haryana), a case FIR 10 dated 6th January, 1997 against Senior Regional Manager, FCI Haryana and other under section 420/109/199/200/120-B IPC, 7/10/55 EC Act and 3(1) (b) of prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 was registered at Police Station, Civil Lines, Rohtak, Haryana. The main allegation in the FIR is that wheat meant for open sale was allotted by Sr. Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana by taking bribe, to the traders and profiteers. The FIR names the them Sr. Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana and two other FCI Officials apart from the private parties. Exact quantity of wheat and amount involved would be known only after the investigation has been completed

(c) Two FCI officials and three others have been arrested. The FCI officials have also been placed under suspension. The services of the then Senior Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana have been repatriated to his parent cadre. Warrant of arrest against the then Sr. Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana, has been issued. The matter is under investigation by the State Police Authorities. The matter has, however, been taken up with CBI also for investigation.

[Translation]

System of Carrying Night Soil

552. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the system of carrying night soil on head is still in prectice in some regions of the Maharashtra State; and

(b) the steps being taken to abolish this system completely in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Misuse of National Flag

553. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Flag of the country can be used for the commercial purpose and other activities; and

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken or propose to take any action against the commercial institutions using the National Flag as a 'Logo' ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.